

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 10, 1991

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

DOMESTIC AGENDA

FINISH BUSINESS OF '91 BEFORE STARTING POLITICS OF '92

A LOT HAS HAPPENED IN THE WORLD SINCE WE LAST MET HERE. BUT DESPITE THE EARTHSHATTERING CHANGES IN THE SOVIET UNION, THERE'S PLENTY OF WORK LEFT FOR US TO DO. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE EXPECT US TO GET BUSY, AND SO DOES PRESIDENT BUSH.

I DON'T NEED A CALENDAR TO KNOW THAT 1992 IS AROUND THE CORNER. NO DOUBT, WE'LL HEAR A LOT OF TALK THIS FALL ABOUT THE "DOMESTIC AGENDA" -- WHO HAS ONE AND WHO DOESN'T. MUCH TO THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF HIS CRITICS, PRESIDENT BUSH HAS A DOMESTIC AGENDA. IT'S THE DOMESTIC AGENDA THE PEOPLE ELECTED GEORGE BUSH TO IMPLEMENT IN THE 1988 LANDSLIDE. THE FACT IS, HIS OPPONENTS DON'T LIKE IT BECAUSE IT ISN'T THEIR AGENDA. IT'S STANDARD POLITICAL SPIN TO BASH THE PRESIDENT -- BUT THAT'S NOT WHY WE'RE HERE.

BIPARTISAN COOPERATION

LET'S FACE IT, THE ONLY WAY ANY DOMESTIC AGENDA WILL BE ENACTED IS WITH BIPARTISAN COOPERATION. WE MAY SHARE MANY OF THE SAME GOALS, BUT WE OFTEN DISAGREE ON HOW TO ACHIEVE THEM. AND WE HAVE TO FACE REALITY AND START LISTENING TO THE TAXPAYERS FOR A CHANGE -- WE DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY TO START NEW FREEWHEELING SPENDING PROGRAMS. AND UNDER OUR BUDGET AGREEMENT, ANY PROGRAMS WE DO START HAVE TO BE PAID FOR.

PAYING FOR PROGRAMS

WE ARE ALL SYMPATHETIC TO THE PLIGHT OF THE UNEMPLOYED -- ONE PERSON OUT OF WORK IS ONE TOO MANY. BUT EVEN THE NEW YORK TIMES -- NOT EXACTLY A REPUBLICAN NEWSLETTER -- CHARACTERIZES THE DEMOCRATS' LATEST UNEMPLOYMENT SOLUTION AS "A LEGISLATIVE HOAX." I HAD A PLAN LAST MONTH, TOO, THAT WOULD HAVE PAID FOR ITSELF AND WOULD HAVE BEEN SIGNED INTO LAW BY PRESIDENT BUSH -- A FACT CONVENIENTLY IGNORED BY THE PRESIDENT'S CRITICS.

I ALSO SEE WHERE THE DEMOCRATS MAY HATCH SOME MORE "SOAK THE RICH" SCHEMES. THEY MAY SOUND GOOD, BUT WE'VE SEEN THE IMPACT OF THE SO-CALLED "FAIRNESS" OF THE LUXURY TAX IMPLEMENTED BY THE DEMOCRATS LAST YEAR -- PINK SLIPS ALL THE WAY FROM AIRCRAFT AND BOAT MANUFACTURERS TO CAR DEALERS AND SMALL-TOWN JEWELRY SHOP OWNERS. THEY SAID THEY WERE GIVING THE MIDDLE CLASS A HELPING HAND BY TAXING THE RICH -- INSTEAD, THAT HAND POINTED THEM TO THE UNEMPLOYMENT LINE.

I EXPECT WE'LL SEE NO SHORTAGE OF EFFORTS TO SLASH DEFENSE SPENDING TO PAY FOR A LAUNDRY LIST OF BIG SPENDING PROGRAMS. BUT IF THE INCREDIBLE TURN OF EVENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION TAUGHT US ANYTHING, IT'S THAT THE ONLY CERTAINTY IS UNCERTAINTY. AND IF YOU ASK ME, UNCERTAINTY IN THE NUCLEAR WORLD AND UNILATERAL DISARMAMENT JUST DON'T MIX.

HEALTH CARE: THE PEOPLE'S #1 PRIORITY

WE ALL AGREE THAT HEALTH CARE IS A NATIONAL PRIORITY. I SPENT THE RECESS TRAVELLING TO EVERY CORNER OF MY STATE, AND EVERY PLACE I WENT, HEALTH CARE WAS THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE, FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY THE FEDERAL DEFICIT. BUT THERE AREN'T ANY EASY ANSWERS TO THE HEALTH CARE DILEMMA. IT WILL TAKE CREATIVE THINKING, COURAGE -- AND YES, A WAY TO PAY FOR IT.

THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE CHALLENGES FACING US FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR.

ON THIS SIDE OF THE AISLE, WE'RE READY TO COOPERATE TO IMPLEMENT A RESPONSIBLE, REALISTIC AGENDA, NOT SOME POLITICAL AGENDA. AND WHEN WE'RE DONE, WE SHOULD ADJOURN, GO HOME AND LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE AGAIN.

LET'S GET 1991 DONE BEFORE WE START 1992.

###